Council of the District of Columbia
Memorandum

City Hall, 14th and E Streets, N.W. Fifth Floor 638-2223 or Government Code 137-3806

To Chairman Tucker and all Council Members

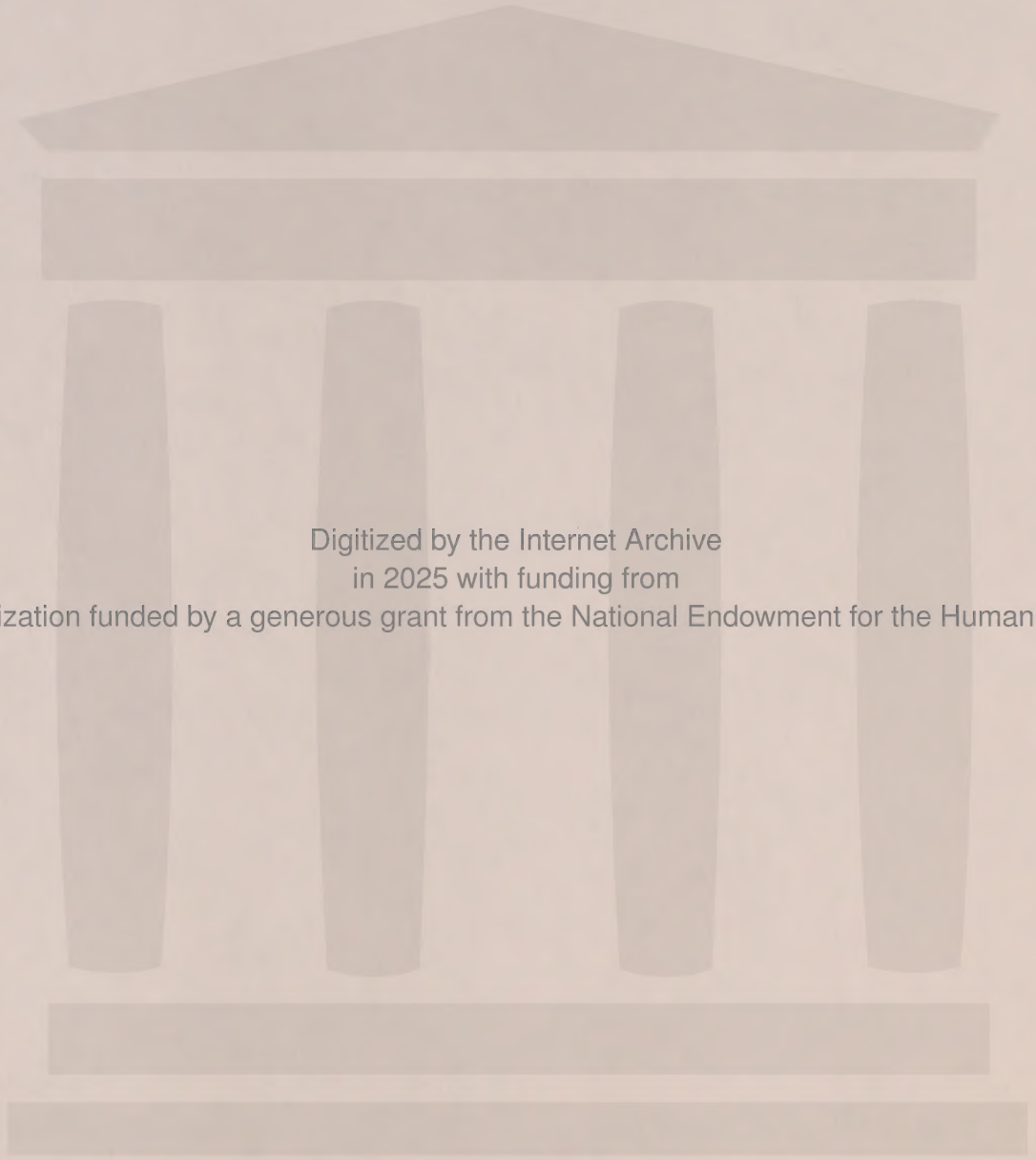
From Councilmember Julius W. Hobson

Date January 30, 1975

Subject Resolution reaffirming support for the Equal Rights Amendment as set forth by the previous D. C. City Council Resolution of May 16, 1972 introduced by Margaret Haywood.

On May 16, 1972 the previous D. C. City Council adopted a resolution supporting the Equal Rights Amendment. I feel that as the first popularly elected City Council in over 100 years it is appropriate that we reaffirm our support for both the letter and the spirit of this proposed Constitutional Amendment.

I invite all members of the City Council to join in sponsoring this resolution.



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Council of the District of Columbia
Memorandum

City Hall, 14th and E Streets, N.W. Fifth Floor 638-2223 or Government Code 137-3806

To COUNCIL MEMBERS AND EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS

From Julius W. Hobson, Councilmember JH/PB

Date February 19, 1975

Subject Correction to Memorandum to Mayor Washington subject, "Political Surveillance by D.C. Police Officers," dated February 18, 1975

Because of an omission we have retyped the first page of the Memorandum to the Mayor and delivered the corrected copy to his office. I have underlined the additional words which clarifies the third paragraph item 1.

Attachment

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

February 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: MAYOR WALTER E. WASHINGTON

FROM: CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS (signatures below)

SUBJECT: Political Surveillance by D.C. Police Officers

Recent newspaper reports have indicated the possibility of illegal activity by the D.C. Police Department. We are glad to note that Chief of Police Maurice Cullinane has already ordered the Department to prepare a comprehensive report on activities of the Intelligence Division. However, members of the City Council who have signed this memorandum request that specific information be included in Chief Cullinane's report. We also request that complete copies of the report be made available simultaneously to City Council members and to you.

It is unfortunate that, in advance of the report, Chief Cullinane, who has been with the Police Department many years, assured you "I can state in good conscience that at this writing I have no personal knowledge that either the data gathered or the message /methods (?)/ utilized represent activities that would be termed illegal". Since both you and Chief Cullinane occupied positions of authority during the period under investigation, we are sure the citizens of the District would feel more comfortable with an independent review of the facts by the elected City Council and, therefore, we know you will support our efforts to include all pertinent facts in this first report.

Newspapers have already written that Councilmember Julius W. Hobson, his wife Tina Hobson, Councilmember Marion Barry Jr., and Delegate Walter Fauntroy were all targets of police spying by undercover agents during the late 1960s and early 1970s. When was this type of political surveillance first initiated by the Police Department? Under whose authorization? From that date (or year) until the present, we ask that the following information be included in Chief Cullinane's report:

1. A complete list of all persons (both D.C. residents and visitors) who were named in special non-criminal files consisting of newspaper articles and other published materials maintained by the Police Department intelligence program. Provide a definition of what the Police Department considers "criminal" and "non-criminal" (i.e. does "criminal" include such items as parading without a permit, failure to move on, etc.).

A complete list of all persons subjected to other forms of surveillance and observation for non-criminal reasons including, but not limited to, following people around, attending meetings or speeches, wiretapping and use of other eavesdropping or recording devices whether visual or auditory. Be sure to include information on any

Council of the District of Columbia
Memorandum

City Hall, 14th and E Streets, N.W. Fifth Floor 638-2223 or Government Code 137-3806

To ALL CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

From JULIUS W. HOBSON, COUNCILMEMBER AT LARGE

Date Friday, February 28, 1975

Subject Construction of Two Proposed U.S. Postal Service Facilities: Area of Wisconsin Avenue and Upton Street and in Montgomery County, Maryland

It has come to my attention that the U.S. Postal Service has circulated a proposal to construct a consolidated new postal service facility at Wisconsin Avenue and Upton Street, N.W., which is scheduled to be discussed by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) in March.

This project has many detrimental effects which will place grave hardships on the citizens of this city and will further hasten the exodus of blue-collar jobs to Montgomery County at a time of rising unemployment in the District of Columbia.

The proposed consolidated postal facility at Wisconsin Avenue and Upton Street, N.W. could cost at least $4,200,000 (this is projected on a conservative cost overrun estimate of 20 percent). Postal officials confirmed at a public meeting held on January 27, 1975,that the annual cost of leasing the unimproved land alone would be $186,000-a-year for a 55 year period and that they have leased considerably more land than the facility needs to take care of intended expansion.

However, one of the most disturbing aspects of this project is the commercial-industrial intrusion into a residential area and the resulting change in the environmental conditions caused by parking problems, traffic hazards, noise, and air pollution initiated by transferring 260 Postal Service vehicles to this residential site. Together with the loss of jobs, it seems a very bad project.

Citizens in the area, and city-wide, have demanded that the Postal Service prepare an environmental impact statement as required by Section 102(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act. Section 102(C) directs the Federal Government to include in every recommendation or report on proposals for legislation and other major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment a detailed statement by the responsible official on:

1. The environmental impact of the proposed action.

2. Any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the proposal be implemented.

3. Alternatives to the proposed action.

4. The relationship between local short-term uses of the environment and enhancement of long-term productivity, and

5. Any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources which would be involved in the proposed action should it be implemented.

The National Capital Planning Commission should direct the U.S. Postal Service to follow the dictates of this environmental policy Act so that the citizens, as well as the city government, may fully know the extensive ramifications of this proposed consolidated postal facility in terms of economic, social, and environmental impact, and loss of jobs.

The D.C. City Council is charged with the responsibility of protecting the city's environment and the general welfare of its citizens. The NCPC is solely concerned with representing the interests of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia. Therefore, the NCPC should welcome and be open to initiatives from the D.C. City Council to foster an atmosphere of friendly and constructive cooperation in order to avoid situations and circumstances where the Federal actions will induce grave deteriorating environmental conditions within the city which can be avoided, as well as the loss of badly-needed blue-collar jobs which must be retained. The National Capital Planning Commission has helped provide hundreds of thousands of white-collar jobs most of which are held by suburbanites. It has shown no similar concern for blue-collar jobs for District residents which are slipping away to the suburbs or being driven out of the city.

There is a precedent for such constructive and cooperative action to be found in the joint hearings and actions on the proposed freeway plans in 1969 when the NCPC and the D. C. City Council worked together to meet that crisis.

Aside from the environmental aspect of the project at Wisconsin Avenue and Upton Street, we must consider the further danger that the construction of the postal facility will result in the removal of 80 blue-collar well-paid Black mechanic jobs from the city and relocate these jobs far out in Montgomery County.

In this connection, the U.S. Posal Service advertised in the January 19, 1975 edition of the Washington Star-News, classified section, for offers of between 13-15 acres of unimproved industrial-type property located within the general area of Route 70S between the Beltway Route 495 and Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Presently the Postal Service has its D.C. vehicle maintenance facility located in the old Metro car barn at Georgia Avenue and V Streets, N.W. (2112 Georgia Avenue, N.W.). The postal car barn facilities have numerous hazardous working conditions such as: (a) improper and inadequate lighting, (b) leaking roof, (c) faulty ventilation, and (d) inadequate heating facilities, which have forced the employees to work in temperatures ranging from 52 to 54 degrees.

The D.C. City Council must take positive action at once to insure compliance with D.C. occupational health standards in federal facilities, such as the car barn.

The U.S. Postal Service faces growing employee resentment over these conditions, plus the likelihood that they will be unable to retain their present employment once the proposed new multi-million-dollar postal maintenance facility is built near Gaithersburg, Maryland. At a similar postal vehicle maintenance facility located at Merrifield, Virginia the large majority of the employees are Virginia residents and a ratio of $4\frac{1}{2}$ white employees to 1 Black employee exists there.

The Postal Service officials have indicated that the Montgomery County facility and the Wisconsin Avenue and Upton Street facility are interdependent. Thus, the approval of the Wisconsin Avenue and Upton Street consolidated facility will also serve as the justification for transferring jobs from the Vehicle Maintenance Facility at Georgia Avenue and V Street out to Montgomery County, where the establishment of a $4\frac{1}{2}$ white to 1 Black job ratio will result in the loss of vitally needed jobs by the Black mechanics at the present postal vehicle maintenance facility at 2112 Georgia Avenue, N.W.

In a time when environmental regulations are being ignored, the city is faced with an immediate loss of blue-collar jobs of such magnitude, and cannot afford the repercussions of the Postal Service's proposed Wisconsin Avenue and Upton Street/Gaithersburg, Maryland projects.

I believe the D.C. City Council should take immediate steps to establish a review process with the National Capital Planning Commission which will provide the City Council with direct input into all proposed Federal projects in the District of Columbia, especially when it is so clear that the Postal Service's proposed consolidated facility is the type of Federal project which must be avoided.

To resolve the current situation. I would recommend the following actions--

1. The D.C. City Council and the National Capital Planning Commission should immediately establish a joint review process on all Federal projects beginning with this one.

2. The D.C. City Council should ask the National Capital Planning Commission to prepare an objective environmental impact statement in full compliance with Section 102(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act so that we, and the city, can fully comprehend all of the aspects of the Postal Service's plans and so that reasonable alternatives can be proposed.

3. The D.C. City Council should request that Mr. Ben W. Gilbert, the Mayor's designated representative to the National Capital Planning Commission, formally present the recommendations indicated in items 1 and 2 above to the National Capital Planning Commission before the proposed consolidated postal facility at Wisconsin Avenue and Upton Street is taken up.

4. The D.C. City Council should direct the proper District agency to investigate and correct the occupational health hazards which have gone uncorrected and unreported at the U.S. Postal Vehicle Maintenance Facility at the car barn at Georgia Avenue and V Street, N.W., and bring conditions there into immediate compliance with current building standards of health and safety required by Federal and District of Columbia laws and regulations.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Julius W. Hobson

April 29, 1975

Resource Recovery System

In our approval of the Mayor's request for $9.6 million for a D.C. resource recovery facility, we directed the Mayor not to proceed with the National Center for Resource Recovery (NCRR) project for 90 days to permit a further review of what the taxpayer would get for dollars spent.

I plan to consult with EPA and FEA in evaluating the proposed system. Because of serious questions raised by citizens, I also plan to ask for a financial audit of the NCRR feasibility study since it was authorized under a sole source contract prior to an elected D.C. government.

The attached testimony was presented by Roger Sant, FEA's chief for Conservation and Environment. I am providing you with the section related to solid waste management systems since it provides many new facts. This is a complex area and we all need to educate ourselves so that our final decision will be in the community's interest.

Attachment

Council of the District of Columbia
Memorandum

City Hall, 14th and E Streets, N.W. Fifth Floor 638-2223 or Government Code 137-3806

To Memebers, Committee on Education, Recreation and Youth Affairs

From JWH Julius W. Hobson, Chairperson

Date May 2, 1975

Subject Special Meeting

I am calling a meeting of the Committee on Education, Recreation and Youth Affairs on Monday, May 5, 1975, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 503. The purpose of the meeting is to receive information from the President of the Board of Education concerning the evaluation of the Superintendent and to clarify the Board's recent actions.

cc: All Council Members

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20004

May 2, 1975

Mrs. Virginia Morris, President
District of Columbia Board of Education
The Presidential Building
415 12th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mrs. Morris:

You are requested to attend a meeting of the Committe on Education, Recreation, and Youth Affairs, Monday, May 5, 1975 at 1:00 p.m., in Room 503, District Building, 14th and E Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. The purpose of this meeting is an inquiry concerning the evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools and other pertinent matters. We are hopeful that you can clarify the current situation and brief the Committee on the Board's actions.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Julius W. Hobson

Julius W. Hobson, Chairperson
Committee on Education, Recreation
and Youth Affairs

cc: Council Chairman
Committee Members

Council of the District of Columbia
Memorandum

City Hall, 14th and E Streets, N.W. Fifth Floor 638-2223 or Government Code 137-3806

To Councilmembers JH

From Julius W. Hobson, Chairman, Education, Recreation & Youth Affairs

Date May 7, 1975

Subject Telegram to Virginia Morris

Attached hereto is a copy of a telegram as an expression of my dissenting position with respect to Council action. As I was not here yesterday during the debate on this matter, I feel justified, and supported by the decision of the court, indicating that the Board up to now has acted within it's legal authority.

Text of Telegram sent to Ms. Virginia Morris, President of the Board of Education, May 7, 1975 at 11:00 A.M.

Ms. Virginia Morris
President, Board of Education
Room 1205, Presidential Building
415 12th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

I support the School Board's investigation of Ms. Sizemore because you are within your legal and administrative rights. This message supersedes an earlier telegram which I sent to you this morning.

JULIUS W. HOBSON
Chairman, Education, Recreation
and Youth Affairs Committee
Council of the District of Columbia

cc: Chairman Sterling Tucker
All City Council Members

Text of Telegram sent to Ms. Virginia Morris, President of the Board of Education, May 7, 1975 at 9:30 A.M.

Ms. Virginia Morris
President, Board of Education
Room 1205, The Presidential Building
415 12th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

I support the School Board's investigation of Ms. Sizemore because you are within your legal and administrative rights. I would not give into the Council on the sixty day cooling off period.

JULIUS W. HOBSON
Chairman, Education, Recreation
and Youth Affairs Committee
Council of the District of Columbia

cc: Chairman Tucker
All City Council Members

Council of the District of Columbia
Memorandum

City Hall, 14th and E Streets, N.W. 20004 Fifth Floor 638-2223 or Government Code 137-3806

To Councilman Julius Hobson

From Robert A. Williams, Secretary to the Council

Date July 18, 1975

Subject Renovation to Assist Handicapped Persons

This is furtherance of your memorandum on adaptation of the entrance to the District Building to provide for handicapped persons.

On July 11, 1975, Rodney Coleman and I met with Mr. Starobin, Director of the Department of General Services, on the subject and reached the following understanding:

--That the adoption of the treadle and installation of the ramp will require a major renovation effort for which funds will be sought through reprogramming from existing Capital improvements projects.

--An appropriate sketch and cost estimate will be prepared within the next 15 days describing the proposed adaptation.

Only the 13 1/2 street entrance which is the major point of egress/ingress will be so renovated. As other details unfold I shall keep you advised.

cc: Rodney Coleman

Council of the District of Columbia
Memorandum

City Hall, 14th and E Streets, N.W. 20004 Fifth Floor 638-2223 or Government Code 137-3806

To COUNCILMEMBERS

From Julius W. Hobson, Chairman, Committee on Education, Recreation, and Youth Affairs

Date November 7, 1975

Subject Introduction of Proposed Resolution

The attached proposed resolution has been filed with the Office of the Secretary. It is "a resolution to reaffirm local autonomy in the development of public policy and operation of programs in public education in the District of Columbia."

cc: Ed Webb

A RESOLUTION

In the Council of the District of Columbia

Councilmember Julius Hobson introduced the following resolution which was referred to _____

A resolution to reaffirm local autonomy in the development of public policy and operation of programs in public education in the District of Columbia

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

That this Resolution may be cited as the "Resolution Supporting Local Autonomy of the Government Entities in the District of Columbia."

Sec. 2. The Council finds that --

(a) The People of the District of Columbia have been delegated a greater measure of control by the Congress of the United States over their Government through the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act (P. L. 93-198);

(b) The formulation of public policy, definition of roles and responsibilities, and enactment of legislation on public education in the District of Columbia are local in nature and are peculiarly under the

purview of the Board of Education and the Council of the District of Columbia; and,

(c) Although the Congress of the United States retains oversight of the District of Columbia as provided in Sec. 602 and 604 of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act. (P. L. 93-198), it has delegated the primary responsibilities for governance of the District of Columbia to elected local officials. Therefore, on matters of exclusively local interest and concern, the elected local officials should establish all local policies and programs.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia respectfully urges that the Committees of the Congress of the United States with oversight responsibility for the District of Columbia --

(a) Allow local officials to resolve, either legislatively or otherwise, problem areas which have been identified by local officials;

(b) Accord local elected officials the opportunity to conduct autonomous investigations to the extent that such investigations are necessary; and

(c) Allow duly elected local officials to autonomously pursue local matters.

Sec. 4. Upon adoption of this resolution, the Secretary of the Council shall transmit a copy to the Chairman of the House District Committee, Chairman of the Senate District Committee, the Mayor of the District of Columbia and the President of the Board of Education.

Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

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Council of the District of Columbia
News Release

City Hall, 14th and E Streets, N.W. Fifth Floor 638-2223 or Government Code 137-3806

November 18, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOBSON TO INTRODUCE RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL AUTONOMY

Councilmember Ju[illegible] W. Hobson (Statehood, At-Large) today announced the introduc[illegible]f a resolution which urges the Congress of the United States to all[illegible]ected officials in the District of Columbia to autonomously pursue lo[illegible] matters. Mr. Hobson's action stemmed from his dissatisfaction over the recent announcement of the House District Committee that it planned to let a $25,000 contract with Mark Battle Associates to study the roles and responsibilities of the various entities in the area of public education. The resolution requests that local elected officials be permitted to conduct their own investigations and studies. Furthermore, the resolution underlines the Council's perogatives for the enactment of legislation which effect strictly local matters.

Mr. Hobson, an advocate of statehood and full self-determination for the citizens of the District of Columbia, has stated that the adoption of this resolution by the Council would demonstrate the determination of city officials to exercise their total responsibility over local affairs. The matter is scheduled to be introduced to the full Council on November 18, 1975.

For further information contact: Patricia Evans Miner
638-2223, ext. 14

Julius W. Hobson

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